

#### IV. Genus *Bucephaloptera* Ebn.

(Tettig.)

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#### History.

Brunner v. Wattenwyl, when describing in 1882 (p. 338) his *Thamnotrizon bucephalus* made a remark that this species differs from others of the same genus by its peculiar type of coloration and by the structure of external genitalia. In fact, however, the differences go still farther and at least one character, the number of spines on the upper side of the anterior tibiae, does not permit the species to be identified as a member of the genus *Thamnotrizon* by Brunner's key to genera. This caused Berland and Chopard (1922) to mistake this insect for a new species of the genus *Psorodonotus*; correct specific synonymy has been since established by myself (1923) and by Ebner (1923, 1926). The last mentioned author established in 1923 a new genus *Bucephaloptera* for this species.

Recently I have received from Dr. F. Bodenheimer in Palestine a very curious Dectid, which proved to be the second species of *Bucephaloptera* and this enabled me to offer here a preliminary revision of the genus.

#### Description and systematic position of the genus.

Face broad; mandibles powerful. Vertex very broad, feebly prominent. Pronotum strongly rounded above, without median keel, moderately produced and rounded behind; lateral lobes placed obli-

quely, forming no angles with the disc, and fully visible from above; their surface more or less convex. Prosternum unarmed. Mesosternum and metasternum with triangular lobes. Elytra rudimentary, covering each other, only partly visible from under the pronotum. Last tergite of the male with a pair of closely approximate narrow acute lobes, armed with spinules. Male cerci with a basal tooth. Female subgenital plate convex, with a small apical emargination. Ovipositor recurved. Anterior tibiae armed with four spines along the upper margin. All femora unarmed below. Hind tibiae with two pairs of apical spurs below. Free plantulae of the hind tarsi as long as the first joint, or slightly longer.

As it is obvious from the above diagnosis, the genus need not be even compared with *Pholidoptera* Wesm. (*Thamnotrizon* Fisch., *Olynthoscelis* Fieb.), from which it is separated at once by the armature of anterior tibiae. On the other hand, *Bucephaloptera* comes near to *Festella* G.-Tos, differing from it mainly in more robust habitus, genital structures and especially in the free plantulae, which in *Festella* are abnormally long. The head of *Bucephaloptera* is very similar to that in *Decticus*, with its broad face and powerful jaws, while pronotum is of the same general type as in *Medecticus* Uv., only still more rounded.

On the whole, the genus *Bucephaloptera* may be placed in the system near *Medecticus* and *Festella*.

### Key to species.

- 1 (2). Smaller (hind femur less than 20 mm. long). Coloration greyish-ochraceous, with castaneous markings; little shiny. Last tergite of the male hairy; its lobes short, strongly decurved; armed with strong spinules, which on the inner side begin before the middle. Male cerci with a long, slender, curved hook near the base.—Balkans; Asia Minor..... 1. **bucephala** (Br. W.).
- 2 (1). Larger (hind femur over 25 mm. long). Coloration uniformly castaneous; very shiny. Last tergite of the male scarcely hairy; its lobes long, slender, almost straight, armed with small spinules near and at the apex only. Male cerci with a short inflated hook at the very base.—Palestine..... 2. **ebneri**, sp. n.



**Bucephaloptera bucephala** (Br. W.) (figs. 1, 2).

1882. *Thamnotrizon bucephalus*, Brunner, *l. c.*, p. 338.

1922. *Psorodonotus Riveti*, Berland et Chopard, *l. c.*, p. 230.

1926. *Bucephaloptera bucephala*, Ebner, *l. c.*, p. 93.

Brunner, Berland and Chopard, and Ebner have supplied descriptions of this insect which make it unnecessary for me to give its diagnosis. The last named author has also given a complete bibliography of the species.

Area of distribution of *B. bucephala*, according to Ebner (1926) covers Asia Minor from Taurus and the Southern Balkans as far north as Dobrudzha and Ochrida in Macedonia.

**Bucephaloptera ebneri** sp. n. (figs. 3, 4).

♂. Considerably larger than the preceding species, almost uniformly castaneous, very shiny. Face with reddish castaneous marmoration on a testaceous background. Pronotum strongly convex above.

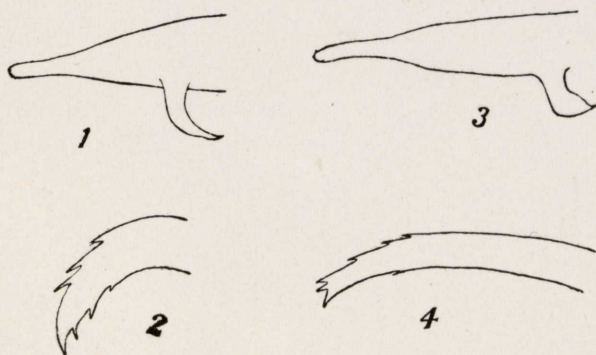


Fig. 1.—*Bucephaloptera bucephala* (Br. W.), male cercus; fig. 2, *B. bucephala* (Br. W.), lobe of the last tergite; fig. 3, *B. ebneri* sp. n., male cercus; fig. 4, *B. ebneri* sp. n., lobe of the last tergite.

ve, with the hind margin broadly parabolic; lateral lobes still more oblique (*i. e.* less vertical) than in *B. bucephala* and distinctly inflated. Elytra parabolic, shiny brownish, with a blackish submarginal lateral stripe near the apex. Abdomen pale testaceous, with a broad black

lateral fascia. Front and middle femora with a small black spot at the base above and below. Hind femora strongly punctured, with a short series of small black spots near the base above. All tibiae with black spots at the base of spines on the underside.

Last tergite deeply and narrowly incised; its lobes very long, slender, practically straight and lying closely parallel to each other, armed with a few small subapical and apical spinules. Cerci long, relatively slender, with a short, inflated, pointed hook at the very base of the inner side (the hook in both species becomes visible only after the cercus is taken out). Subgenital plate large, carinate along the middle (perhaps as a result of desiccation), angularly excised behind.

Total length 22 (abdomen somewhat contracted); pronotum 9; visible portion of elytra 3.5; hind femur 28 mm.

Described from a single male taken at Chedera, Palestine, 17-IV-1926 by Dr. F. Bodenheimer. Type in the British Museum.

I have a great pleasure in dedicating this insect to Professor Richard Ebner, well known specialist in Orthoptera and the author of this interesting genus, of which further species may be expected in S. W. Asia.

### Bibliography.

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